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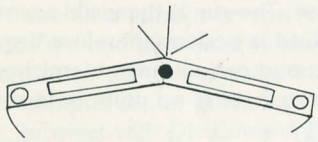

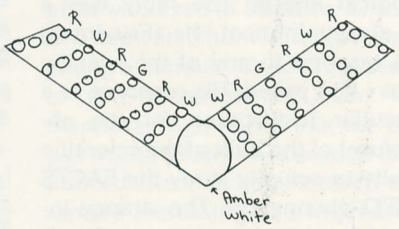

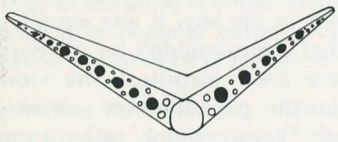

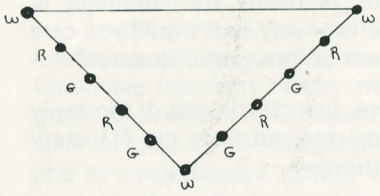

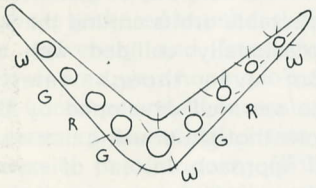

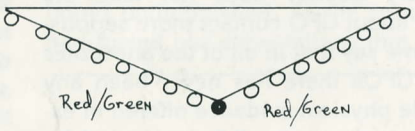

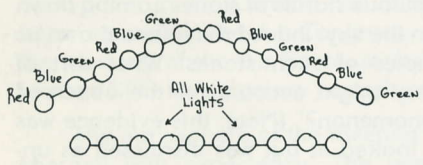

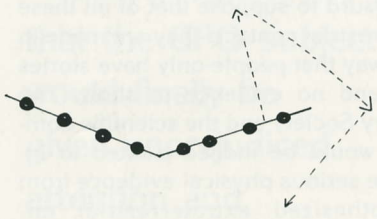

More Boomerang-Shaped Object Sketches

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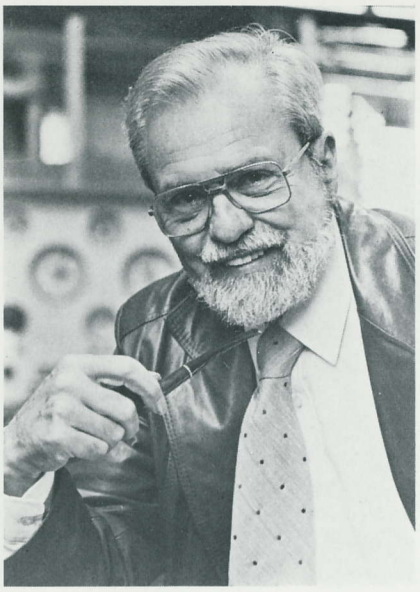

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EDITORIAL

Some time ago a long-time Associate of the Center for UFO Studies, Herbert S. Taylor, of Oceanside, N.Y., wrote to me about a letter he had written to Dr. Carl Sagan. He asked me to comment on it and on the reply he had received from Louis Friedman, executive director of the Planetary Society, which Dr. Sagan founded and heads.

Perhaps this editorial can serve as a belated reply to Mr. Taylor's letter, which I'm sure he would not mind sharing with our readers. "The letter," Taylor wrote, "pointedly challenged Dr. Sagan to defend his acute negative position in regard to the UFO problem. I asked **specific** questions concerning especially electromagnetic and physiological effects. I also referred to the Cash-Landrum case [a noted case of spectacular physiological effect]. The reply was a distinct disappointment. He (Friedman) failed to respond to any of the specific questions I had posed. His response is a very peculiar justification for the absolute refusal of the bulk of the scientific community to actually study the FACTS of the UFO phenoenon. The strange insistence of these great purveyors of truth to exclude that which does not fit their conception of reality still continues to dominate. How very sad! Would you care to comment on this pitiful situation?"

Here, first, is the gist of the reply Mr. Taylor received from the Planetary Society director:

"As to your wondering why the Planetary Society does not take the stories about UFO contact more seriously, let me say that in all of the anecdotes about UFOs there has never been any credible physical evidence offered of extraterrestrial contact. It is ironic and indeed absurd to suppose that of all these extraterrestrial contacts they are made in such a way that people only have stories to tell and no evidence to show. The Planetary Society and the scientific community would be indeed excited to investigate serious physical evidence from a hypothesized extraterrestrial encounter."

What a myopic view! Unfortunately even the Planetary Society has not profited from the lessons of the history of science. That is replete with sad stories of the failure of the scientific community of that day to take seriously proferred evidence because it did not fit the prescribed format. The roll call of those who have tried to call the attention of their peers to signs that portended breakthroughs in the scientific outlook is impressive: Galileo, Pasteur, Simmelweiss, Wegener, Fessenden . . . . and a host of others.

The history of science has shown that it was not so much that evidence of something new on the horizon was not there, as it was of a **refusal to look** at the evidence because it wasn't in a form acceptable to the scientific critics of the day, or because it violated preconceived concepts. A notable example of the latter was the refusal of Galileo's peers to look through his telescope at sunsports because: The sun is the visible symbol of God; God is perfect, therefore the sun is perfect and cannot have blemishes, and therefore there is no point in looking!

We are all familiar with the "stones in the sky" story. Since it was obvious to all straight-thinking scientists of the 18th century that there just couldn't be stones in the sky, it was equally obvious that there couldn't be meteorites. But there **are** meteorites! The viewing angle on the phenomenon was wrong, that's all. There certainly weren't stones in the sky waiting to fall down on the earth, but there were bits of matter, pursuing respectable orbits around the sun, which occasionally collided with the earth. But even though celestial mechanics was well developed by that time, no one thought of using that as an avenue of approach. Instead of saying: "Here we have a phenomenon; people of good repute have told us seemingly ridiculous stories of stones coming down from the sky. Indeed they have shown us samples of such stones. What sort of theory might account for the **observed** phenomenon?" (Note: this evidence was not looked at but was dismissed as undoubtedly stones that had been struck by lightning. Similarly, evidence in UFO Physical Trace Cases has been dismissed either as the product of hoaxers or as the result of natural or man-made causes.).

(continued on page 15)

A Confrontation with Dr. Condon: Prelude & Aftermath

by Richard Sigismond

[Ed. note: Only a few people knew that Richard Sigismond had been accepted as a member of the Condon Committee, and that he had "resigned" even before formally accepting membership. He did this on the basis of the events described below. We have been able to persuade him to present this to our readers in the interests of the historical record of this sad episode in the UFO saga.]

It was an afternoon in the Autumn of 1966. We had convened in the small auditorium in the old physics building on the campus of the University of Colorado, to meet with Dr. Edward U. Condon, physicist, and newly-appointed head of a civilian scientific inquiry into the UFO phenomenon. Although we had no way of knowing it at the moment, he was soon to become perhaps the most negative figure in UFO research.

Upon invitation by the physics fraternity, Dr. Condon had agreed to an informal question and answer session concerning the UFO subject. I, and many of those gathered together that day from the university and from the greater Denver area, were hoping to question the well-known scientist concerning possible avenues of investigation into this controversial but intriguing UFO subject. Even then, many of us suspected that the phenomenon was the focus of a government coverup. Dr. Condon had recently been commissioned by Congress, with the blessing of the Air Force, to form a civilian UFO investigatory committee.

The atmosphere of the meeting was charged with expectancy. The famous physicist, George Gamow, had retained for himself a front row seat directly in front of the podium. His presence added an appreciable element of intensity to this meeting. We had the feeling that at long last we were to have an impartial, open, and truly scientific inquiry, a hope reinforced by the fact that we held Dr. Condon in some considerable regard. He had earned a solid reputation in the field of physics and had formerly been the head of the National Bureau of Standards, located in Boulder near the University campus. Moreover, Edward Condon was known, especially to many of us who lived in Boulder, as something of a dedicated humanist, advocating and aiding a number of social causes relating to the betterment of man. We had, therefore, high hopes that the UFO subject would finally be accorded the unprejudiced attention and research which the rapidly increasing and impressive body of world-wide UFO reports suggested it rightfully deserved.

In the light of the now quite well-known events surrounding the Condon Commitee (its short history marked by grave dissention as Condon's original staff recoiled at his arrogant, cavailier, and at times flippant attitude regarding the subject) it seems surprising that we left that autumn meeting with our high hopes undiminished. To the contrary, it had fueled our expectations that a truly unbiased investigation might soon be forth-coming, that Condon would soon empanel a committee which would give the world its first definitive and credible report on the UFO enigma. Our disappointment was to come later.

"We had high hopes that the UFO subject would finally be given unprejudiced attention and research."

Condon then appeared to us to be a man who, while unaware of the history of the UFO phenomenon, was willing to conduct a scientifically respectable investigation. In retrospect, it is fair to note that we, blinded by our hopes, failed to fully assess and appreciate the significance of a subtle factor which might have been more keenly observed and evaluated. That element was Condon's casual approach to the subject, an attitude we attributed to ignorance of the puzzling nature of the phenomenon and the complexity of the task he was about to undertake.

One event, however, should have alerted us to his closed mental set.

The circumstances surrounding the Brazilian Trindade Island UFO photographs (July - Aug. 1983 IUR) came up for discussion. There in the front row, Gamow, his demeanor stern, listened intently, then inquired of Condon if these photographs did in fact exist. Condon appeared bewildered, but others informed Gamow in the affirmative. Then, in an agitated manner, he asked Condon if he would be getting these pictures. Condon, somewhat hesitatingly, avowed that we would, although he seemed unaware of their existence.

Gamow's agitation did not diminish with this somewhat tepid assurance. It increased until, with a resounding blow of his fist upon the writing arm of the chair, he made a provocative and startling statement which revealed the seriousness

Confrontation — continued

with which the military regarded the UFO presence.

Gamow declared that in 1952 (14 years earlier) he with Gen. Curtis LeMay, long-term head of the Strategic Air Command, had been on a secret UFO committee whose purpose was to study and evaluate the UFO phenomenon. Why had he, in an obvious "need-to-know" capacity, neither seen nor heard of the Trindade Island photographs? Why had this material not been made available to him? After a long moment of silence, which understandably followed Gamow's provocative remarks, someone explained that the photos had been taken six years *after* his involvement on the secret panel.

Gamow's comment did not elicit the kind of response from Condon we expected. It did not seem to affect him then or in his later conduct relative to his committee. Nor did it temper the disparaging tone of remarks he made to the press on frequent occasions. In charity, we, at that time, excused Condon's lack of follow-up on this tantalizing piece of information to a complete unfamiliarity with the UFO subject and its implications, combined perhaps with a lack of certainty as to how to approach the work of investigation.

In retrospect, we note our naivete.

The Confrontation

Several months later, after the UFO committee had been formed and the work of investigation was supposedly proceeding nicely, I became aware of a great deal of discontent on the committee staff. I knew, (through my earlier work in teaching and my associations with the Boulder intellectual and scientific community) most of the members of Condon's staff. Discontent, focused on Condon's seeming proscription against any serious investigation and his attitude toward the UFO phenomenon in general, became a matter of frequent discussion. There were a few of us, (both on and off the committee) who felt that with the nation anticipating, in fact eagerly awaiting, the Condon Committee's report as the first truly definitive and scientifically sound statement on the controversial UFO phenomenon, we had a strong moral and ethical obligation to see to it that this public trust was not violated.

With this in mind, when an opening on the committee staff occurred a few months after its formation, I applied and was duly interviewed (along with a number of other applicants) by both Condon and Robert Low. Low, assistant dean of the univerity's graduate school and Condon's "right hand man", was the author of the infamous "the trick would be" Memo, which was later to become the focal point of the rapidly growing distrust of Condon's motives. *[Ed. Note: For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the heart of this crucial memo, here it is: "The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer." This was addressed to two Deans of the University of Colorado. This Memo was eventually made available to investigative reporter, John G. Fuller, as material for his damning expose entitled "Flying Saucer Fiasco" published as a feature article in* ***Look*** *magazine May 14, 1968.]*

Upon receiving word from Mary Louise Armstrong (Condon's chief administrative assistant who was soon to prove a person of remarkable integrity and dedication to scientific ideals and whose later letter of resignation appeared in Hynek's The UFO Experience) that my appointment to the Committee had been confirmed, I resolved to ascertain, both for myself and for the benefit of others in the group, whether Condon was ever going to permit a competent and open investigation to take place.

Though the Memo clearly exposed Low's surprising view that the Committee should, in the final analysis, be more concerned with image and posture than with substance, it did little to establish Edward Condon's true attitude toward UFO investigation. This was important to ascertain, since his statements were frequently ambiguous, at other times contradictory. It was difficult to place confidence in him when, for example, on Jan. 26, 1967, he remarked to a reporter for the *Elmira (N.Y.) Star-Gazette* (just three months after his so-called inquiry had begun): "It is my inclination right now to recommend that the government get out of this business. My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it." The paper then states that Condon added, with a smile, "But I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year."

"I became aware of a great deal of discomfort on the committee staff ...focused on Condon's seeming proscription against any serious investigation."

Since I knew that I could not work in the psychological environment I could clearly see developing, I decided to request a private interview with Condon to determine, once and for all, where "Condon's head was at" concerning the UFO subject. Whatever the results, I would bring that information back to interested committee members. They could add their knowledge, and we could all then act accordingly.

The meeting took place in Condon's office atop the JILA Tower in the physics complex. Condon was cordial, relaxed, indeed, quite friendly. However, after some 20 minutes of conversation, I was appalled to realize that this recognized scientist had no intention whatever of seriously engaging the UFO subject. Any discussion of the complexity of the subject left him disturbed. His negative bias could not be broached.

At this juncture, I saw that I had two choices — smoothing what waves had appeared on the waters, thus preserving my appointment, or allowing my feelings to surface and pushing the matter to a conclusion, an action which I knew would cost me my newly won place on

the committee. I chose the latter path, feeling that I could not compromise scientific ideals, particularly the belief that science has a social trust not to prejudge, or to interpose opinion or philosophy before fact.

With these feelings foremost and by now quite undisguished, I looked about Condon's spacious office, with its several doors, wondering which one was the exit.

"Dr. Condon", I said, "would you please show me the shortest way out of here so we can terminate this meeting and any future relationship we might have had on the Committee."

At the next possible meeting with certain committee members, I told of my encounter with Dr. Condon, stating that I had deliberately pushed him to the wall and had concluded that the entire UFO matter was simply abhorrent to him. I had seen that, beneath all the impressive scientific facade, he had an unyielding and quite irrational view concerning the possibility that the UFO phenomenon might have validity. The subject conflicted with deeply-ingrained convictions; any hope of an impartial investigation was precluded. I said to my friends on the committee that I would be available to aid in alerting the public to the situation, and to this end I functioned in the ways which were open to me. One of these ways was to continue to monitor the activities of the Condon Committee. I felt another injunction, too. As a long term researcher of the UFO phenomenon, I was acutely aware of the shortcomings of Project Blue Book. Edward Condon's selection as head of the Congressionally-mandated, but Air Force funded, UFO inquiry was, I suspected, influenced strongly by the fact that he appeared to regard the entire UFO subject as nonsense. Reluctant as I was to entertain this conclusion, the evidence was, nonetheless, rapidly building. Just as the Air Force had earlier selected Dr. J. Allen Hynek as chief scientific consultant to Blue Book because he showed a strongly skeptical attitude, they had now selected Condon.

At the time, it was a relatively common assessment by scientists that if the UFO phenomenon could not be written off simply as misidentification of common celestial or man-made objects, then it most certainly was the projection of pent-up emotional needs stemming from the disillusionments following World War II. Observing the serious complaints of many Committee members, I began to wonder whether Condon had been secretly contacted to head the UFO civilian inquiry because of his negative bias. Certainly we knew that there had been preliminary requests by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) that the University take the UFO project. We also knew that the only impetus for action by the Air Force to establish a civilian UFO inquiry stemmed from Congressional pressure, criticism, and suspicion of the Air Force's handling of the UFO matter under Project Blue Book.

Condon functioned, almost from the onset of the Committee's work, as if he felt he had some sort of dispensation to casually amuse himself with the subject, indulge his prejudices, without concern for any possible rebuke from the Air Force. It was as if his all too apparent prejudices had been in some manner covertly encouraged and promoted.

I monitored, if you will, the major events. They are now history, though just how some came to pass is best left unsaid. Several prominent Committee members were fired by Condon immediately after the Look magazine article was published, leaving the inquiry crippled and demoralized. This is valuable reading for those who have an interest in the UFO phenomenon. My observations and experiences confirm that its data is accurate.

Condon functioned... as if he felt he had some dispensation to casually amuse himself with the subject."

Committee member Mary Louise Armstrong's letter of resignation is available for review, on pages 243-50, in Allen Hynek's 1972 book on the UFO subject, *The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry.* Armstrong's insightful comments concerning Condon's chief administrator, the late Robert Low, are worth repeating. She observes: "Too much of his time has been spent in worrying about what kinds of 'language' should be used in the final report so as to most cleverly avoid having to say anything definitive about the UFO problem. Very little time, on the other hand, has been spent in reviewing the data on which he might base his conclusions."

Final Notes & Observations

University of Colorado psychologist, Dr. David Saunders, highest ranking member of the Committee fired by Condon, quickly wrote a book with R. Roger Harkins, entitled *UFOs Yes! Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong.* I suggest it as "must" reading for those who profess expertise in the UFO phenomenon. However, neither the Saunders book, the Armstrong letter, nor the Look magazine article, seemed to have any impact upon the conclusions of the National Academy of Sciences. Setting aside all dissenting commentaries, itself ignorant of the UFO subject, the Academy quickly endorsed the Condon findings. It has lent its weight to the contention that the UFO phenomenon is not worthy of scientific attention. Through the persistent efforts of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy), we find that the highest security agency of the United States, the National Security Agency, has in its files a minimum of 131 top secret documents on the UFO subject, which it refuses to release because of national security. It takes little mental effort to conclude that the NSA would hardly waste its time preparing 131 top secret documents on a subject not worthy of attention, scientific or otherwise!

Regarding the issue of secrecy and the credibility of Condon's work, readers should contrast the above disclosures with Condon's "Conclusions and Recommendations", Section 1, page 5, of the

(continued on page 16)

Close Encounter at 25,000 Feet: Government Coverup

by Paul C. Cerny

[Ed. note: There are today so may straws in the wind concerning alleged government coverup of genuine UFO cases that, taken together, they would make quite a haystack. Yet, no definitive proof has been forthcoming, proof that would withstand a severe Congressional investigation, for example. The following story, released by the widow of one of the principal witnesses after an enforced silence of many years, would, if true (and Mr. Cerny holds it is true, based on his private interviews with the narrator), constitute such proof. We present it here for the record through the kindness of Mr. Cerny. In 1954, the date of this event, I was quite active with Project Blue Book and I do not recollect ever seeing this report in Dayton. If it had come into Blue Book, it would have stood out like the proverbial sore thumb and it certainly would not have escaped my attention. So here may be additional evidence of Government coverup.]

TYPE:	CE-I
DATE:	Sept. 3, 1954
TIME:	4:30 P.M.
DURATION:	Over one hour
WITNESSES:	Crews of three B-47 bombers
PLACE:	25,000 feet over Texas vicinity of Dallas

During a radio call-in talk show, in which MUFON astronomy consultant Tom Gates and I participated, we were rewarded with an unusual and highly significant story from the widow of a former Air Force major, a pilot and navigator on B-47 and B-52 jet bombers. She stated that after many years of remaining silent as requested, she felt that the public had the right to know about her deceased husband's, and his companion's, exceptional UFO encounter.

I arranged for several personal interviews which revealed an astounding story of high altitude, extremely close UFO encounter. Her detailed recall of the events of many years ago, as told to her by her husband shortly after the event, was impressive, as was her obvious intelligence. I almost felt that I was listening to her husband retelling the story himself.

Her husband at the time was Maj. Robert J. Waste (she has since remarried) #73028, classified as a 1037, basically a navigator of a specialized elite crew. He was a Wing Officer with the Strategic Air Command (SAC). He lost his life in the crash of a B-52 bomber on Memorial Day, 1955, which also cost the lives of the entire crew. The UFO encounter had occured eight months earlier.

On Sept. 3, 1954, Major Waste had gone out with his squadron on routine bombing exercises. They were competing for accuracy by dropping "bombs" of sacks of flour. Each B-47 carried a crew of three - a pilot, co-pilot, and navigator-bombardier. Major Waste was acting in the latter capacity, riding in the nose portion of the aircraft.

They had been over various midwestern States and were now returning home to Barksdale A.F.B., Shreveport, La. At about 4:30 P.M., on this relatively clear day, they were in the general area of Dallas, Tex., when they received a radio communication from Carswell A.F.B., near Fort Worth, asking them to investigate and be on the lookout in their immediate vicinity for reported UFOs. They were cruising at 25,000 feet.

They were suddenly startled to discover a strange craft pacing their plane only 100 feet overhead. The alien machine was a beautifully stream-lined, missle-shaped device slightly larger and longer than their own B-47 fuselage. It was dull metallic in color and had two rows of oval-shaped port holes along each of its sides, about a third of the way up from the bottom. An orange exhaust flame emanated from the rear of the aerial intruder, as well as from what appeared to be smaller control exhaust ports slightly ahead of the main thrust unit. The bottom of the craft seemed to be lighted or glowing. This description of the appearance and performance of the craft resembles that of the famous Chiles-Whitted DC-3 airliner case of July 23, 1948, near Montgomery, Ala.

The immediate concern of the crew was the frightening possibility of a mid-air collision. After pacing the B-47 overhead for a short time, it suddenly shot ahead and then zoomed almost straight up at incredible speed, disappearing momentarily from view. As per their radio instructions, they tried to climb after it at full throttle, but almost stalled the B-47 in the attempt. Nothing we had would come anywhere near the its performance capabilities.

"The sleek UFO... circled overhead and underneath at fantastic speeds... maneuvering around the B-47 for well over an hour."

The sleek UFO then came back down to within about 300 feet of the jet bomber and began circling the aircraft. It circled overhead and underneath at fantastic speeds, so fast that they could hardly see it. The object stayed with them, pacing overhead and underneath, doing all sorts of maneuvering around the B-47 for well over an hour.

During this time Major Waste had made his way back through the inside passageway to the pilot's area where he and the co-pilot shot photos of the missile-like intruder with their personal cameras. Many of their pictures were taken when it was close overhead, displaying considerable detail. Major Waste had a new Nikon sequencing camera with a telephoto lens. An expert photography buff, he shot 32 frames of 35mm color film of the craft during the encounter.

The maneuvering capability was incredible. The object would cut in front of the plane, at one time doing a perfect figure eight, as if showing off. Once it slowed down in front of them, and they started into its exhaust flame. When they were sure they would collide, it pulled away and maneuvered around the aircraft.

Their radio instructions from the ground were to pursue and, if possible, force the UFO down. Major Waste remarked, "No way were we going to be able to force that thing down!" The crew's opinion was that this unusual craft did not come from anywhere on this planet, due to its appearance and maneuvering capability.

The two planes behind were watching and listening to the air-to-ground communications between Major Waste's plane and the air base. When the action started, they did move up for a closer look, but kept at a safe distance. All immediate action was centered around the lead aircraft.

As if content with the time spent "showing up" the inferior B-47, the sleek craft once again shot upward into the sky and disappeared, not returning again.

All the B-47s on this training mission landed safely at Barksdale A.F.B. and the crews were released after debriefing and sent home, except for the crew of Major Waste's plane and the two other accompanying aircraft. The wives and family members of these three planes were all anxiously awaiting their arrival and release from duty at the base, but were told to go back home without them, that they would be detained for some time. The crews are specifically instructed not to discuss military matters or incidents while on duty with anyone, even their wives.

The three involved B-47 crews were confined to the A.F.B. for almost three days for special debriefing as the result of their encounter with the unknown craft. All the film the crews took of the UFO was confiscated. The luggage bags and other personal effects thoroughly searched for any possible additional film. The planes were carefully searched as well. Family members calling the base, inquiring why the three crews were being detained and why they could not come home, were told they could not discuss the reasons. No information at all was available. Major Waste finally came home on the third day at about 9 p.m. to a very upset wife and her son, whose birthday he missed because of the detainment.

Mrs. Waste prodded her husband, promising not to tell anyone the reason for his detainment, and she kept that promise all these years until now. He finally agreed to tell her in the strictest confidence about the unusual encounter, and told her never to tell anyone about it. Since that time, she has remained in touch with the other two crew member's families and three other retired officers acquainted with the incident. She was good enough to phone these retired officers for me to ask for verification and permission to use their names or let me talk to them. All flatly refused and one even denied any knowledge of the event. The others did verify to her that the encounter took place but refused to discuss it, even with her.

It is incredible the "strangle hold" our government agencies have over military personnel, threatening reprisal to silence them about their involvement in a world-wide phenomenon which, in most cases, does not involve classified military information.

In the case at hand, we apparently have an answer to James Oberg's question stated in his article in *TRUE 1981, Outer Space and Paranormal World Quarterly*, "Where are the UFO photographs?" Perhaps Captain James Oberg's influence with the Pentagon is sufficient to obtain the release of the Major Waste photographs, or at least to disclose where they are filed? □

SURPRISE YOUR FRIENDS WITH A UNIQUE GIFT!

MAKE THEM A CUFOS ASSOCIATE OF THE BEST KIND AND HELP THEM EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE UFO PHENOMENON. YOUR GIFT (ON THEIR BEHALF) WILL HELP EXPAND OUR WORK IN THIS FIELD AND...IT IS FEDERAL INCOME TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. SEE THE APPLICATION FORM ON PAGE 15 AND...MANY THANKS!

Boomering Update

by Philip Imbrogno, George Lesnick and Chris Clark

The Boomerang-shaped UFO described in the last issue continues to be a growing mystery. Investigation is in progress by the three authors of the present paper and by an investigative reporter Ed Walzer, of the Reporter Dispatch, Kisco, N.Y., who is conducting a parallel cooperative investigation. Although a part of the mystery has been solved . . . in some cases a group of pilots were apparently deliberately conducting close flight formations in small planes to confuse the issue . . . there is as yet no explanation for the slow moving, silent, and at times hovering "Boomerang." Yet, just because so many people have been witness to this object leads one to think that it would prove to have a natural, explanation as some man-made device. But what? And Who?

In the last issue of this Journal, we were able to give a quick summary of some very spectacular sightings that had been taking place just to the north of New York City and into Connecticut. Investigations have continued and it now seems clear that no one has been able to come up with an explanation for the large, hovering and slow moving boomerang-shaped object which was also reported, generally, as noiseless.

The large amount of local publicity these sightings received caused, as would be expected, many people in the sighting area to go out looking for UFOs and naturally they reported everything from aircraft to the planet Venus. To make things worse, a number of people did see three small aircraft flying in formation from the Stormville Airport in Duchess County.

On July 14, I staked out the area of Stormville Airport and verified that some of the reports were the result of these planes flying in formation. Apparently, a number of the pilots and staff connected with the airport were deliberately doing a little leg-pulling, and my appearance for several hours at the airport didn't please them too much. I knew then that part of the mystery was solved, but this formation flying *cannot explain the bulk of the March reports* described in the last issue. This will be clear from the results of our continuing investigation. [Ed. note: There is so much material now available that we cannot publish it all at once. We will have to use the "continued in our next" technique reminiscent of the old mystery thriller magazines!]

Our investigations have revealed that the boomerang UFO may have made its first appearance as far back as 1980. At this time witnesses reported a boomerang or chevron shaped object moving slowly and hovering at low altitudes. Witnesses were few and the sightings were restricted to the back country of Westchester and Putnam counties. The object was never reported on successive nights and there were no collaborating witnesses.

It was not until February, 1983, that the object made its first grand entrance, so to speak. The first well documented encounter with this object occurred on Feb. 26 at Lake Carmel, N.Y.

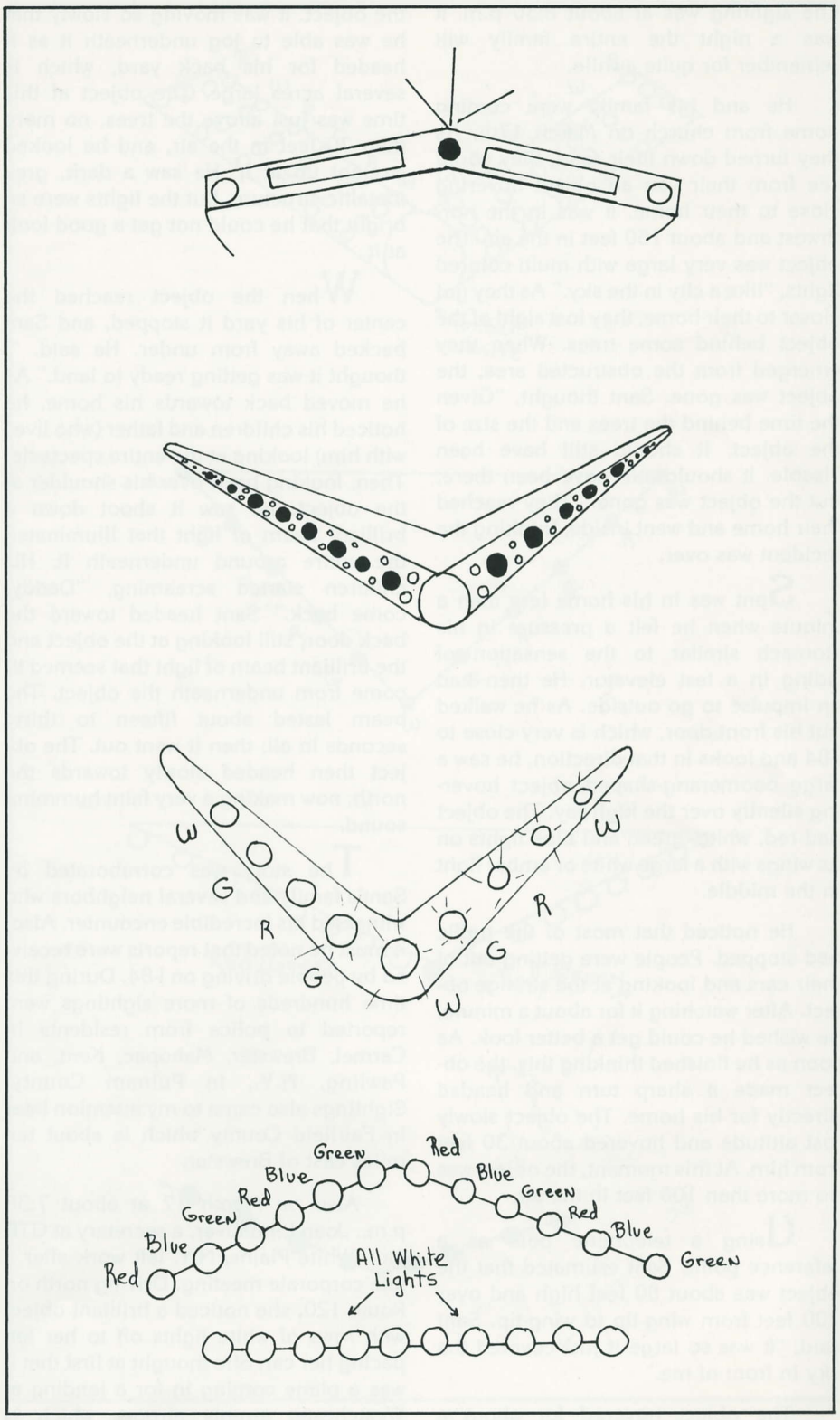
Monique O'Driscoll and her 17-year old daughter, also named Monique, were driving home from her mother's house at about 8:30 p.m. The night was clear and very cold. Mrs. O'Driscoll's daughter was staring out the window when she noticed a large group of multi-colored lights coming up over over a hill. They both watched as a large boomerang-shaped object with rows of red, blue and yellow lights topped the hill and headed south at tree top level. They followed the object for about a mile. It was off to the left about 200 yards away and only about 70 feet in the air. The younger Monique then said that it must be headed for White Pond. They lost sight of the object because of the trees, but headed for the pond. On the way, Mrs. O'Driscoll wondered what they might find. There was no one else on the road and the area was quite isolated. Sure enough, they saw the object again and Mrs. O'Driscoll parked her car. It was hovering over the pond less than 200 feet from the shore and no more than 50 feet in the air. "The lights were unbelievable and you could see them reflected in the ice on the pond. The back of the object seemed to be facing us." Mrs. O'Driscoll then got out of her car and started walking toward the lake, while her daughter screamed for her mother to come back. The object then slowly turned to face them. Blue, amber white and red lights numbering about 20 in all began flashing in sequence from left to right across the wings of this unknown object. The object then glided silently towards them. This silence, they told me, was the strangest part of all.

Monique continued yelling for her mother to get back in the car. Mrs. O'Driscoll called back that she was coming. She also told her daughter not to turn off the engine, since she was afraid that it wouldn't start again. The object was still moving slowly towards them. It then banked to the west and floated slowly away in that direction.

Mrs. O'Driscoll jumped back into the car and got on her CB radio, trying to call for someone else to see this thing. All she got was static. She then looked up and saw the object heading for Gypsy Trails Road. She stepped on the gas, determined to see the object once again. She had read about UFOs and knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. She caught up with the object half a mile from the pond over a field. It was hovering 30 feet above a field. She got out of her car and walked toward the object until she was almost underneath it. Looking up, Mrs. O'Driscoll saw one large, massive, solid metal object. It was grey in color with long tubular metal areas and heavy-duty grill work. She also saw what appeared to be circular mechanisms attached to the grill network.

She then ran back to her car as the object moved slowly towards the pond area. As she followed (her car speed was 25 mph), the object which was no more than 300 yards ahead, suddenly blinked out. "All the lights just went out and I could not see it anymore", said Mrs. O'Driscoll. The object was gone. According to both mother and daughter, there was no way that it could have moved out of their sight. The object just vanished. A Mrs. Rita Rivera also saw the object at the pond, but was farther down the road. She verified Mrs. O'Driscoll's story. According to my calculations, the object they saw was about 150 feet from wing-tip to wing-tip.

As far as we know, the object was not sighted again until March 17th. On this date, between the hours of 7 and 10 p.m. EST, it was seen by hundreds of people in the northeastern section of Putnam County moving slowly and hovering over Interstate 84, in the Brewster, N.Y. area. Traffic jams resulted on this and other major highways in the area. This generated hundreds of UFO reports to the police in the area. Although there were quite a few reports on this date, the most incredible sighting comes from Dennis Sant of Brewster, N.Y. Mr. Sant is in his mid-thirties. He is a Putnam County clerk and lives in the area of Brewster road with his two children ages 6 and 9.



In drawings, top to bottom, are boomerang-shaped UFOs seen in Shrub Oak, N.Y.; by Monique O'Driscoll in Lake Carmel, N.Y.; and in Ossining, N.Y., and New Fairfield, Conn.

The sighting was at about 8:30 p.m. It was a night the entire family will remember for quite awhile.

He and his family were coming home from church on March 17th. As they turned down their road, they could see from their van an object hovering close to their home. It was in the northwest and about 160 feet in the air. The object was very large with multi-colored lights, "like a city in the sky." As they got closer to their home, they lost sight of the object behind some trees. When they emerged from the obstructed area, the object was gone. Sant thought, "Given the time behind the trees and the size of the object, it should still have been visable. It should still have been there, but the object was gone." They reached their home and went inside, thinking the incident was over.

Sant was in his home less than a minute when he felt a pressure in his stomach similar to the sensation of riding in a fast elevator. He then had an impulse to go outside. As he walked out his front door, which is very close to I-84 and looks in that direction, he saw a large boomerang-shaped object hovering silently over the highway. The object had red, white, green and blue lights on its wings with a large white or amber light in the middle.

He noticed that most of the traffic had stopped. People were getting out of their cars and looking at the strange object. After watching it for about a minute, he wished he could get a better look. As soon as he finished thinking this, the object made a sharp turn and headed directly for his home. The object slowly lost altitude and hovered about 30 feet from him. At this moment, the object was no more than 100 feet in the air.

Using a telephone pole as a reference point, Sant estimated that the object was about 80 feet high and over 200 feet from wing-tip to wing-tip. Sant said, "It was so large it just covered the sky in front of me."

The object hovered for about a minute, then started slowly drifting towards Sant's back yard. He ran toward the object. It was moving so slowly that he was able to jog underneath it as it headed for his back yard, which is several acres large. The object at this time was just above the trees, no more than 70 feet in the air, and he looked straight up at it. He saw a dark, grey metallic structure, but the lights were so bright that he could not get a good look at it.

When the object reached the center of his yard it stopped, and Sant backed away from under. He said, "I thought it was getting ready to land." As he moved back towards his home, he noticed his children and father (who lives with him) looking at the entire spectacle. Then, looking back over his shoulder at the object, he saw it shoot down a brilliant beam of light that illuminated the entire ground underneath it. His children started screaming, "Daddy, come back." Sant headed toward the back door, still looking at the object and the brilliant beam of light that seemed to come from underneath the object. The beam lasted about fifteen to thirty seconds in all; then it went out. The object then headed slowly towards the north, now making a very faint humming sound.

The story was corraborated by Sant's family and several neighbors who witnessed his incredible encounter. Also, it must be noted that reports were received by people driving on I-84. During this time hundreds of more sightings were reported to police from residents in Carmel, Brewster, Mahopac, Kent, and Pawling, N.Y., in Putnam County. Sightings also came to my attention later in Fairfield County which is about ten miles east of Brewster.

Also on March 17 at about 7:30 p.m., Joan Lindauver, a secretary at GTE Inc., White Plains, N.Y. left work after a late corporate meeting. Driving north on Route 120, she noticed a brilliant object with rows of white lights off to her left pacing her car. She thought at first that it was a plane coming in for a landing at Westchester county airport, which is close by. The object was keeping pace with her car and she realized that it was no plane. The object seem to be gliding noiselessly just above the trees. She became frightened since the road was dark and her car was the only one on the road at the time. When she stopped for a red light at the intersection of Routes 100 and 120 in Millwood, (Westchester County) the object moved to the front of her, hovering above the light, just 30 feet from her car and about 50 feet in the air. When the light turned green, she made a left turn and headed to her home in Croton, the object following for about a mile at a much higher altitude. It then made a sharp turn and headed north where it was spotted in Yorktown, N.Y., at about 8:00 p.m.

The story was verified by people who live in the area of Millwood and by workers at a gas station 300 yards from the intersection. Also unknown to Joan was that a fellow worker and friend who lives in the Yorktown area saw the object after it left the Millwood area. Also, many residents between Millwood and Yorktown, at about 8:00 p.m., reported a UFO to the police. Joan described the object as V - or boomerang-shaped object with eight to ten lights on it. She noticed no sound and could make out no details besides the lights, which were very bright. This sighting was about an hour before the Sant sighting in Brewster.

Chris Clark and Philip Imbrogno drove the route of the sighting area at night. It is a lonely road. The intersection of 120 and 100 in Millwood is populated and the red light there takes 22 seconds, so the object hovered for at least this long.

The next sighting occurred on March 24th between 7 and 11 p.m. This was the night that the greatest number of people saw an unknown, very large, boomerang-shaped object over the major highways in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Reports came in from Upper Westchester to most of Putnam County and north-western Fairfield County. We estimate, according to Police information, that on this date as many as 3,000 people saw the UFO. There are so many well-documented sightings on this date that it would be impossible to cover

them. One account with greatest number of witnesses comes from a small neighborhood in Putnam Valley, N.Y.

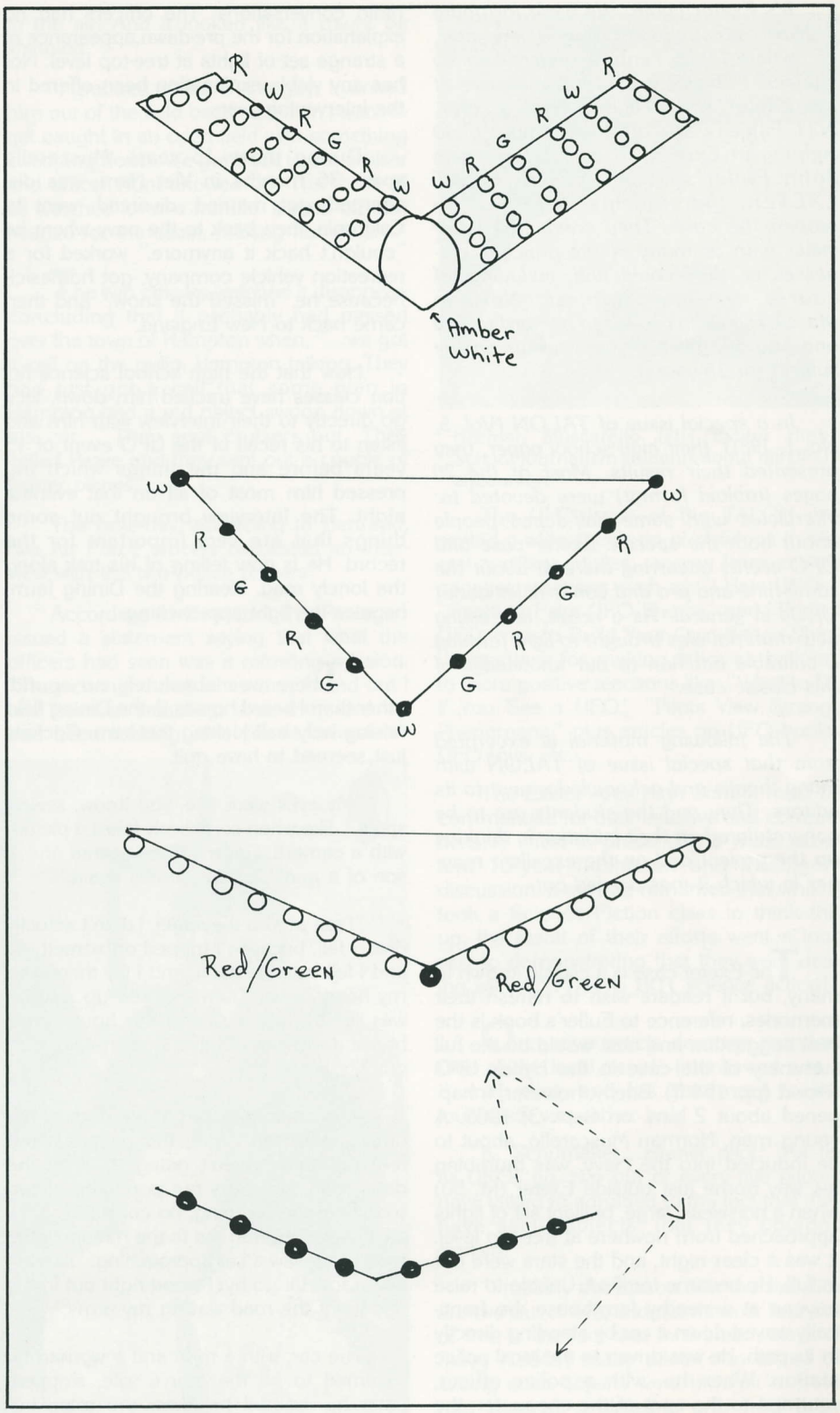
Ruth Reese and her husband James, a police officer, sighted an object heading toward their home from the east. At first, Reese thought it was a low jet, a 747. However, as the object approached, they saw it wasn't a plane, but a V-shaped object with white, red and green lights. As it came even closer, they heard no sound.

They called neighbors and, as the object slowly approached, watched with their son. The object stopped, hovering right above the driveway of their home. The entire neighborhood, which is a circle area, watched from the streets and from their houses. The Reeses' got right under the object, but could only see the lights around some massive dark structure. They estimate the object was about 100 feet in the air and about 120 feet from wing-tip to wing-tip. After hovering 10 minutes, it flew over the entire neighborhood, flashing a bright bluish light from somewhere under the object, similar to a camera flash. It gave the residents the impression that the object was taking pictures or looking for something. The object displayed this behavior for 45 minutes, then slowly left the area.

During the sighting, Mrs. Reese called the local police. She was told no one could be sent since they were all out chasing UFOs and an officer was not available at the time.

About 20 people saw the object with the Reeses. George Lesnick and Philip Imbrogno interviewed 10 of them.

The next series of sightings occured on March 31, followed by sightings during the first two weeks of April. From mid-April to June 15, no sightings were reported. But, from June 15 until July 15 sightings once again occurred. The latter were proven by us to be nothing more than aircraft in formation. □



Boomerang-shaped UFOs depicted here, top to bottom, were seen by Dennis Sant in Brewster, N.Y.; in Danbury, Conn., and Millwood, N.Y.; and by Ruth and Jim Reese of Putnam, N.Y.

Tale of an "Exeter Terrestrial"

It's Exeter again. We were fortunate to learn, although more than a year later, of an interesting venture undertaken by students in the Science Fiction classes at the Exeter Area High School, Exeter, N.H. Fifteen years after the famous UFO sighting in Exeter, so well-described in John Fuller's book INCIDENT AT EXETER, the students undertook to reopen the case. They conducted interviews with as many of the principal witnesses as they could find, including, of course, the main witness, Norman Muscarello (who proved to be hard to find and had not given any interviews on the subject for 15 years).

In a special issue of TALON (Vol. 5, No. 1, 1981), their high school paper, they presented their results. Most of the 20 pages (tabloid format) were devoted to: interviews with some half-dozen people about both the specific Exeter case and UFO events occurring there at about the same time and pro and con articles about UFOs in general. As a result, interesting new material was brought to light forming a valuable addition to our knowledge of this classic case.

The following material is excerpted from that special issue of TALON with many thanks and acknowledgement to its editors. They and the students are to be congratulated on their initiative in thinking up the project and on the excellent manner in which it was carried out.

The Exeter case is a classic known to many, but if readers wish to refresh their memories, reference to Fuller's book is the best suggestion and next would be the full summary of the case in the Hynek UFO Report (pp. 154 ff). Briefly, however, it happened about 2 a.m. on Sept. 3, 1965. A young man, Norman Muscarello, about to be inducted into the Navy, was thumbing his way home just outside Exeter (Rt. 50) when a noiseless, large, brilliant set of lights approached from nowhere at tree-top level. It was a clear night, and the stars were out in full. He became terrified. Unable to raise anyone at a nearby farmhouse, he frantically waved down a car by standing directly in its path. He was driven to the local police station. When he, with a police officer, returned to the spot of the encounter, the UFO reappeared, witnessed now by both men and, shortly thereafter, by another officer who joined them after hearing their radio conversations. The officers had no explanation for the pre-dawn appearance of a strange set of lights at tree-top level. Nor has any viable explanation been offered in the intervening years.

During those 15 years, Muscarello spent 36 months in Viet Nam, was discharged, got married, divorced, went to California, then back to the navy where he "couldn't hack it anymore," worked for a recreation vehicle company, got homesick because he "missed the snow," and then came back to New England.

Now that the high school science fiction classes have tracked him down, let's go directly to their interview with him and listen to his recall of the UFO event of 15 years before and the things which impressed him most of all on that eventful night. The interview brought out some things that are very important for the record. He is now telling of his trek along the lonely road. Nearing the Dining farm, he sees the light approaching:

"There was absolutely no sound, other than I heard horses in the Dining field raising holy hell kicking the barn. Crickets just seemed to have quit.

"My eyes were like, you know, seeing spots...like when somebody takes a picture with a camera. Got my eyes cleared and... son of a gun...here it comes again.

"I ran across the street. I didn't actually dive. I fell, because I tripped on something and I fell into the ditch, and I lay there with my head down. Then I looked up...and it was like the whole side of this house [next house down from Dining's] seemed to turn out like blood red."

Muscarello now ran to the door of the house, pounded on it; the people heard him but they weren't going to open the door "with this crazy nut pounding at two o'clock in the morning, no car out front or anything..." He ran out to the middle of the road as he saw a car approaching. "I wasn't going to let it go by. I stood right out in the middle of the road waving my arms."

The car, with a man and a woman he assumed to be the man's wife, stopped. Later he realized he knew the man, but never disclosed his name, then or later, because the woman was not his wife. The couple took Muscarello to the police station and waited outside for him. "He didn't know if I was cracking up or what."

His story, however, was accepted at the station by Officer Toland with less surprise than Muscarello expected. Toland had just had two UFO reports from nearby towns, the descriptions of which tallied with Muscarello's story.

Officer Bertrand at that point arrived in his cruiser and shortly went with Muscarello to the scene of the UFO event. They found nothing. Just then Officer Hunt, who had been monitoring their radio conversations, arrived on the scene. He was in the process of chiding the other two and dismissing the whole matter when, according to Muscarello, he suddenly yelled, "What the hell is that?"

"We looked up, and here she comes again. Gene (Bertrand) reached for his gun ...I'm not kidding.

"So we boogied back to the cruiser and Gene got on the blower (mike) and he says, 'Scratch (Toland) I see the damn thing myself!"

Shortly, Muscarello was driven home. "And my mother was having a fit because she didn't know where I had been. She sees the cruiser out there and says, 'What did he do now.'

"The next day my mother's kitchen was full of all kinds of people she'd never seen before...one being a Maj, Kehoe [not Maj. Keyhoe of NICAP] from Pease Air Force Base."

The interview the Exeter High School journalists did with Muscarello (and later with the police officers and various townspeople) brought out some new facets of the story told in a refreshing, down-to-earth way. For example:

"Maj. Kehoe raised holy hell with me in the living room, telling me to 'shut up, don't say anything, don't sign anything.' He asked me, 'Have you signed up for the Navy yet,' and when I said, 'no, I haven't, he said, 'Well, if you had, I'd haul you right down to the base, right now.' You see, then I'd be military property...but I didn't actually get sworn in until Oct. 4."

It appears that Maj. Kehoe's sergeant had an attache case handcuffed to his wrist (real cloak and dagger) and sometime during the morning he was unprofessional enough to detach it from his wrist and set it, unattended, on the kitchen table. Mus

carello's mother, no retiring character herself, sees it there when she goes in to make more coffee for the 'guests' and finding it partially open, starts looking through it. Maj. Kehoe discovers this as he comes around the corner and swears at her.

"I'm not even going to use the language he used," Muscarello told the young journalists. "Then she blew up ...'This is my house, that's sitting on my table, and I'll look at it. If you don't like it, then get the hell out of here!' And I said, 'That's right ma, because if he won't I'll throw him down the stairs, And that's a fact."

It must have been quite an occasion!

Officers Bertrand and Hunt were also interviewed by the High School journalist. There are a few minor discrepancies in the three stories, certainly to be expected from memory recall after that many years. Muscarello said the UFO appeared after officer Hunt had arrived, but Bertrand told the young journalists this: "We got out there, we saw nothing. It was pitch dark...I walked down the field with him (Muscarello), and he started yelling. I looked over and I saw some object come skimming across the treetops, about 75-80 feet in the air. And it looked like it might be spinning.

"I grabbed ahold of the guy; I yanked him out of the field because I didn't want to get caught in an open field with something swooping down. We got back to the cruiser and officer Hunt showed up. The three of us watched it for a minute. It took off and headed for the coast, making no noise."

The two officers watched it disappear, concluding that it probably had passed over the town of Hampton when, "...we got a call on the radio. Hampton talking. They had just got a call that some man in Hampton had a red object swoop down at his car... They sent cruisers out. They called Pease and they sent out a couple of fighter planes."

The next day, according to Bertrand, two Air Force officers requested an interview with the two police officers.

According to Bertrand, the Pentagon issued a statement saying that what the officers had seen was a refueling mission. "They changed that when they found out I had been in refueling; then they said we had been looking at a planet inversion."

This picture appeared in the Manchester Union Leader Sept. 6, 1965. From left are teenage Norman Muscarello, former Exeter policemen David Hunt, Eugene Bertrand, and "Scratch" Toland.

Norman Muscarello tells Exeter High School journalism students about his UFO encounter.

The UFO issue of the TALON presented a wide spectrum of opinions in several ancillary articles, ranging from entirely negative reactions such as: "I Hate UFOs," "Spotting Fake UFO Photos" and "Project UFO: How to Build Your Own Space Ship" [Instructions for making a hot air balloon] to more positive reactions like: "What to Do If You See a UFO," "Pilots View Strange Phenomena," plus articles on UFO books, UFO toys, etc.

The Exeter Area High School must be commended for their initiative and comprehensive effort in presenting a most excellent 15-year flashback and intelligent discussion. It may be remarked that while it took a Science Fiction class to think this up, the result of their efforts went a long way to demonstrating that they were dealing with ANYTHING BUT science fiction!

One other article deserves mention: One of the local people interviewed was a Braniff pilot, and his statement to the journalists was rather bold.

K. Schumaker...Braniff pilot: "As far as UFOs go, two out of every five pilots I have talked to admitted to the fact that they have seen 'objects' that they couldn't explain.

"Probably the reason that the statistics are two out of five, and not three or four out of five, is the fact that in the early days of flying (1950s) many pilots who talked of seeing such objects were thought to have had mental problems, and had their licenses revoked. These cases aren't heard of these days but many pilots still have

(continued on page 14)

A "Yorg" in Kansas

TYPE: CE-I (NL)
DATE: May 4, 1983
TIME: 3:50 A.M.
DURATION: 3 min.
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Lawrence, Kan.

Prof. E.J. Zeller, of the University of Kansas, kindly investigated this sighting on behalf of CUFOS. There follows a brief composite account of Dr. Zeller's interview with Officer James Philips of the Law Enforcement Center, Douglas County, Kansas, and Philips' own official report. The interview was made three days after the sighting and was conducted, as interviews should be whenever possible, while re-enacting the event on location, Dr. Zeller rode with Officer Philips in the latter's vehicle, covering the route taken at the time of the sighting.

In general, we do not give great weight to single-witness cases, for obvious reasons, but, in this instance, we present it not only because of the stature of the witness (who used binoculars) and investigator, but because the case is another good example of what we might dub "YORGs" Yellow-Orange-Red Globes. Generally, it is only the bright globe of light that is seen, often so bright that it obscures whatever may be the origin of the light. These have been widely reported from around the world. Here, then, is a very recent case to add to the present impressive collection.

The very early hours of May 4 were clear over the outskirts of Lawrence, Kans. The moon was at last quarter and there was only a slight breeze from the northwest. A "flame orange" ball, about the size of a nickle held at arm's length, suddenly caught Officer Philip's attention. It was first sighted above a power pole just to the west and south of his position, but already high in the sky, within 20 degrees of the vertical. It appeared to Philips to be very close, about 300-400 feet above the ground, making its slant height (because of its closeness to the vertical) less than 500 feet, It was completely noiseless.

"I stopped my car, shut off the engine, and got out to look at it. It passed over me so I turned the car around and went east . . . ." The globe was moving southwest to northeast at an estimated speed of 30-40 m.p.h. (A balloon is thus completely ruled out . . what little wind there was, was from the northwest.). He drove nearly one-half mile east at about 50 m.p.h. and parked once again. During this interval he reported no radio or engine interference. Getting out of the car, he looked at it again, this time through binoculars. Now the object was almost directly overhead, only 5 degrees to the left of vertical.

"I looked at it through the binoculars (7x35). I saw stars disappear as the object went by. I still heard no noise". A dark superstructure was observed to eclipse stars as the luminous globe moved along. The total size of the light and superstructure was between that of a quarter and a half-dollar held at arm's length. A rough calculation indicates that the object was about 20 feet in diameter, larger, of course, if its distance was underestimated.

The illuminated portion had the appearance of "flame jets." It was spherical in shape and slightly smaller than the moon which was visible at the same time. Its actual size would, therefore, be only about 5 feet. The idea of a hot air balloon immediately comes to mind, but the speed and direction completely contradict this. Besides, there have been many cases of orange balls of light to which this explanation would not apply.

Reentering the patrol car, Officer Philips continued east rapidly for a half-mile and then drove 0.3 miles north, and parked once again.

"I again looked at the object through the binoculars, but by the time I had them focused the object sped away quickly, the flame went out, and the object went straight up quickly and disappeared. I could not locate it using the binoculars."

Officer Philips has had six years experience in police work and gave Dr. Zeller the impression of being a very cool and precise observer. He states," I have no reason to doubt that the events he described actually took place essentially as he reported them." □

Tale of an "Exeter Terrestrial" — cont.

(continued from page 13)

superstitious feelings about telling others of their experiences. "The objects they have described were those unexplainable by commercial and Air Force propulsion standards.

"All of these objects (the many objects reported by civilians which prove to be IFOs) are different from what the pilots have seen by one common denominator; the speed and agility of the objects...a weather balloon simply will not move at a speed approaching that of sound, stop and reverse direction. It just isn't possible."

In answer to a question from the interviewers as to whether the object violated the laws of aerodynamics, Bertrand answered, "It did defy them. I've never seen anything fly that way. It was just floating like a leaf."

To that, officer Hunt added in his interview: "It moved more or less with a fluttering motion...like a leaf falling back and forth." His interviewers concentrated more on his reactions to the incident rather than on a retelling of the tale itself.

"How do you feel about this thing now that it's fifteen years later?"

"It's just a thing that happened and we reported it the way it happened at the time, which you know is about all you can do, I guess."

Editorial — continued

The scientific world of the day **refused to look** at the stories and the evidence because such things just couldn't be, so why bother? Refusal to look has been a frequent roadblock in science.

The great mistake in this case was the substitution of one particular theory of the meteorite phenomenon for the phenomenon itself. Is that not exactly what is being done by the scientific community of our day with respect to the UFO phenomenon? Refusal to study the ample evidence that is available simply because it does not seem to fit **one particular theory,** that of visitors from very far off places. Maybe that's the wrong "viewing angle". Shouldn't we rather say, "Look, for the past three decades and more we have been confronted with a phenomenon which is intriguing: it is world-wide, involving different cultures, and the constant flow of reports contains those made by people of recognized skills and training who are certainly sane and responsible as judged by their peers. Furthermore, these reports are not helter-skelter, but fall into well-defined patterns. Let's try to find out what lies behind these stories and reports; there could be a scientific breakthrough somewhere in the wings."

Because we find ourselves in the dawn of the Space Age and have grown up in the Buck Rogers era of science fiction, we have jumped to the conclusion that UFOs must be space craft piloted by E.T.s. But may not this be just another "stones in the sky" situation? Maybe the viewing angle is wrong here, too.

Shouldn't our proper approach here be to say, in effect, "Those who have studied the UFO phenomenon over the years and who themselves are scientifically competent (as are those scientists, currently working in many different disciplines, who are associated with recognized serious UFO investigative groups like CUFOS, MUFON, and APRO in this country and many similar groups in other countries), have told us that the UFO *phenomenon* is real and definitely worthy of scientific study. Various "viewing angles" should be explored, *one* of which should continue to be the possibility that UFOs may in some way not yet understandable to present day science, represent extraterrestrial intelligences. But we should not be provincial in our outlook; we should also admit the possibility that the UFO phenomenon may be indicative of an aspect of reality which so far has eluded us. Perhaps we should go even further and admit the possibility that 20th century science is not adequate to conceive of the final solution of what lies behind the UFO phenomenon any more than the science of the 19th century could have even remotely conceived of nuclear energy. But there will be, we hope, a 21st and a 25th century science which may be able to. But this should not be an excuse not to study the phenomenon itself. We should not be bound by the myopic view of The Planetary Society.

Indeed, the Planetary Society should be made aware of the growing number of scientists who are already taking a broader view of the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is the group initiated by Dr. Peter Sturrock, of Stanford University, the *Society for Scientific Exploration,* which is composed solely of scientists recognized in their own field of specialization, and which seeks to explore those borderland areas of science (UFOs among them) which as yet have not been admitted onto the playing field of orthodox science. In that direction lie the breakthroughs which will become a part of the science of the next century. □

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Confrontation — continued

Condon Committee Report: "It has been contended that the subject has been shrouded in official secrecy. We conclude otherwise. We have no evidence of secrecy concerning UFO reports."

During the course of the Committee's activity, Allen Hynek offered his support, whenever requested, in the hope of promoting an impartial investigation. It is perhaps sufficient to say that I did not see either Robert Low or Edward Condon avail themselves of these resources although the Committee members who either were fired or resigned did.

At the end of the committee's work, several notable critics of the UFO phenomenon, such as Harvard astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel (who wrote two books antagonistic to the UFO subject), waxed prophetic at the annual meeting of the AAAS in Boston. Said Menzel: "Scientists of the 21st Century will look back upon the UFOs as the greatest nonsense of the 20th Century."

Hardly 10 years had lapsed since Menzel's august pronouncement when (through the courageous action of citizens using the lever provided by the Freedom of Information Act) we obtained official Defense Department confirmation that the "greatest nonsense of the 20th Century" had visited our Strategic Air Command bases in Maine, Michigan, and Montana, as well as a number of our nuclear missile launch sites. *(Note: see the Washington Post Jan. 19, 1979, article on this FOIA release, also the IUR March/April 1983 article "Four Huge Orange Discs and the Case for the UFO", case #2, for additional information on these FOIA litigations).*

Since the UFO phenomenon is potentially one of the most significant positive events in the history of man, as well as carrying potential for mass anxiety and shock, I believe that failure to adequately address this issue is not in the best public interest. We hope that events such as Project Blue Book and the Condon Committee will not find repetition, but that, in the near future, a more enlightened and sophisticated public will pressure a more mature government response to the UFO issue. It is heartening to see that there are more and more citizens now contributing essentially toward this end.

Epilogue

Edward Condon was a sincere scientist but a product of his time. Like many of his colleagues in science, he apparently did not regard his unscientific behavior concerning the UFO issue with any misgivings. He seemed to feel that he was doing the public and science a service, that he was leading people away from error and illusion. Condon was a humanist, concerned with improving the quality of education and human thought. He regarded sightings and talk of UFOs as an abomination, another vestige of man's medieval hungering after angels and other-worldliness to the deficit of the quality of man's present life. He died fully believing he had done the world a service by way of his chairmanship of the UFO inquiry. Like many of his contemporaries in the physical sciences, he apparently regarded the possible reality of the UFO phenomenon as absurd. And again, like so many of his academic colleagues both then and now, he deprecated the perceptive ability of the common person and, therefore, gave not even passing credibility to UFO reports, however numerous.

Condon was my neighbor here in Boulder. In the years following the close of the Committee work, he never seemed aware that he and Robert Low had temporarily set aside the hard won precepts of science while pursuing a conviction that UFOs didn't exist because they (according to present scientific knowledge) *couldn't exist.* We are reminded in this connection of the appropriateness of a chapter heading in Dr. J. Allen Hynek's initial book on the UFO subject, *The UFO Experience,* in which he astutely (and perhaps painfully) observes, "Science Is Not Always What Scientists Do". □

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